

A Letter from the Commander

Although wintertime can bring a chill to the nation's capital, it also brings some of the hottest acts to perform with The United States Air Force Band during the Guest Artist Series in February and March. In its 34th year, this series has truly become one of the most popular and anticipated events on the Washington, D.C. cultural calendar. What a thrill it was to work with such renowned artists as Chaka Khan, Keiko Matsui, Dee Dee Sharp, Jerald Daemyon and Miss America 2000 Heather French! And that was just the beginning. Coming up we will be featuring Patti Page, Bryan White and Gloria Loring. One fact that many people don't know about the series is that all of these artists contribute their time and talent free of charge. In fact, over the years more than 230 artists have considered it a great honor to share the stage with the men and women of The United States Air Force Band. I hope to see each of you there as we continue Guest Artist Series 2000.

Another wintertime tradition for The United States Air Force Band is our participation in leading national and international music industry conventions. Starting in late December and continuing through March, the band will have performed

at six major conventions nationwide. These events are extremely important because they give us an unmatched opportunity to directly recruit the nation's best musicians from top universities and professional organizations. Additionally, they allow us to maintain a presence as one of the leading professional music organizations in the world. The outstanding feedback we consistently receive following our featured performances, and at our recruiting booth, assures us that "America's Band" continues to set the standard of the industry. As you peruse the pages of this issue of *Cadenza* you will find several entertaining stories about these wonderful experiences.

Each year we have the opportunity to select one noncommissioned officer and senior noncommissioned officer to receive The Band's Rhonda E. Smith Award. This award—named in honor of a former United States Air Force Band harpist—is reserved for those who set the highest standards of leadership, excellence and service. This year it gives me great pleasure to announce MSgt Douglas Jordan and TSgt Sharon Nokes as the recipients of this prestigious award. TSgt Nokes has



also been honored as both Volunteer and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year for the 11th Operations Group. Additionally, the 11th Operations Group's Team of the Year is our very own "Remembering the Glenn Miller Army Air Forces Orchestra European Tour Team." Please join me in congratulating these dedicated bandsmen, and wishing them well as they participate in higher levels of competition.

Lowell E. Graham, Colonel, USAF
Commander and Conductor

THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE CHAMBER PLAYERS EVENTS

The Chamber Players Series partly dodged the snow bullet in late January, and is charging full bore toward the end of the year. Some highlights of the next few months include concerts featuring music for strings at the Anderson House Museum on March 8 and Montgomery College on March 21. The audience for the March 8 performance is in for a special treat. During this event, five musicians will give the world premiere performance of *Suite* for accordion and string quartet, written by CMSgt William Popp, accordionist with the Air Force Strings. Next month, join us as the Chamber Players will present recitals by MSgt Gil Corella and TSgt Curt Christensen on April 4 and 18 respectively, at Montgomery College.

This season's Chamber Players Series continues through June, when it will end with the annual museum walk at the Anderson House. Check in the next issue for more information about this and other Chamber Players concerts.

—MSgt William Hones

